

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-9, and 11-23 are pending. Claim 20 stands rejected. Claims 1-3, 6-9, and 11-19 are allowed in the current Office Action, while claims 21 and 22 are objected to as depending from rejected claim 20. Claims 6-7 and 20 are amended herein, while claims 21-22 are cancelled.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments after final rejection, as the amendments have been previously searched, and as the amendments place the entire claim set in condition for allowance.

Claims 6 and 7 were objected to for informalities. Specifically, the Office Action stated that the phrase "encoded telephonic signals" in the two claims should read "encoded telephonic call signals." The informalities are corrected herein by amendment. Applicants respectfully request that the objections be removed and that the claims be allowed.

Claims 21 and 22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action states that claims 21 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants herein amend claim 20 to incorporate claims 21-22 and cancel claims 21-22.

Claim 20 again stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent 6,345,047 (Regnier), in view of U.S. Patent 6,144,667 (Doshi et al.). Applicants have incorporated dependent claims 21-22 into independent claim 20, as noted in the Office Action, and state that claim 20 is now patentable. Accordingly, Applicants request removal of the rejection under 35 USC § 103(a) and a notice of allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-20, and 23. Please feel free to call me to discuss rejection or allowance of the pending claims.

Date: 6/21/04


SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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